

WEDNESDAY
January 21, 1959
3:12 p.m.

TELEPHONE CALL TO THE PRESIDENT

The Sec said Caccia will be here at 3:30 and does the Pres have any further thoughts? The Pres said he has gone around like a squirrel in cage on it. It looks as if the real story is not quite told. If he wants to come to see us the Pres thinks it would be better to say it has been a year and we like to talk informally and are coming over for a day. We are honest and that would smoke him out. In any event as they write the letter the Pres does not see how we can object but thinks we can say - has the PM considered that this might touch off a round robin. If he does it should the PM of France or Germany go? What of our going off and seeing one particular person? Are we going to get a common approach or not? We have thought of talking to Khrushchev but put it aside because of possible misunderstanding. The Pres thinks you have to end by saying we ^{won't} ~~can't~~ definitely object because that would be terrible. The Sec finds it that way - we can't really object but could ask if they considered the example they are setting might be catching. We may end up with disunity the Soviets will play on. The Pres said if he wants to see us this is not so terrible and we have had Adenauer here and have invited De Gaulle so there is nothing revolutionary but for him to start to Moscow and make a trip back via Bonn, Paris and Washington - it looks a little obvious. The Pres said we have to realize he is the best one - he is honest but he has a political problem. Ask him to look it over for a better solution.

DECLASS

MR 89-12 23

Authority

By

DATE 2/10/91

FILE

The Pres said should we suggest that he ask K over? He would not go to Moscow. It almost automatically raises that question and the Pres thinks the Sec should bring it to Caccia's attention. The Sec seemed inclined to agree. The Pres said if they do it maybe we better. We won't object and make it worse than it is but hope it is looked at carefully.

pdb